AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claim listings in this application:

1.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a heart valve, the method comprising:

extending a first elongate member through first valve leaflet;

extending a second elongate member through a second valve leaflet; and

drawing the first and second leaflets together,

wherein the first elongate member does not extend through the second valve leaflet.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the second elongate member does not extend through the first valve leaflet.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the first and second elongate members are tension members.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein an intermediate structure connects the first and second elongate members.

22. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a heart valve, the method comprising:

placing a first elongate member in contact with a first valve leaflet so as to reposition the first valve leaflet; and

placing a second elongate member in contact with a second valve leaflet so as to reposition the second valve leaflet,

wherein repositioning the first and second valve leaflets includes drawing the first and second valve leaflets toward each other, and

wherein the first elongate member is not placed in contact with the second valve leaflet.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the second elongate member is not placed in contact with the first valve leaflet.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the second elongate members are tension members.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein an intermediate structure connects the first and second elongate members.

26. (New) A method of treating valvular dysfunction of a heart, said method comprising:

engaging a structure selected from the group of a papillary muscle, chordae tendineae and valve leaflet with a member;

tensioning said engaged structure into a tensioned state; and holding said structure in said tensioned state from a location outside said heart.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said tensioning occurs by retracting said engaged structure.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said member is passed through a wall of said heart from a location outside said heart.

29. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said holding occurs by anchoring said member to the surface of said heart.

30. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said tensioning is adjusted from a location outside said heart.

31. (New) A system for treating valvular dysfunction in a heart, said system comprising at least one tensioning device comprising:

a proximal end adapted to anchor said device to the surface of said heart;

a distal end adapted to engage a structure selected from the group of a papillary muscle, chordae tendineae and valve leaflet; and

an intermediate portion positioned between said proximal end and said distal end, said intermediate portion dimensioned to pass through a wall of said heart from a location outside said heart.

32. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein said distal end is in the shape of a hook.

33. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein said distal end has a curved shape.

34. (New) The system of claim 31, wherein said distal end is adapted to pierce said structure.

35. (New) The system of claim 31, further comprising a plurality of said tensioning structures.

36. (New) A method of treating a heart, said method comprising:

providing a tensioning device comprising a proximal anchor, a distal anchor, and an elongate member adapted to be engaged in tension between said anchors, positioning and securing said distal anchor adjacent said heart, positioning and securing said proximal anchor at a valve,

wherein tension is applied between said anchors by said elongate member.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein said elongate member is tightened after securing said anchors.